

**Apostolic Succession:  
From Christ to Paul to Timothy to Others to Others**

2 Timothy 2 /June 4, 2022

INTRODUCTION: Paul's Call from Christ to the Gentiles

For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel.

For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it. And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers.

But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone; nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.

Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother. (In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie!)

Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. And I was still unknown in person to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. They only were hearing it said, "He who used to persecute us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy." And they glorified God because of me. (Galatians 1:11-24, ESV)

Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along with me. I went up because of a revelation and set before them (though privately before those who seemed influential) the gospel that I proclaim among the Gentiles, in order to make sure I was not running or had not run in vain. But even Titus, who was with me, was not forced to be circumcised, though he was a Greek.

Yet because of false brothers secretly brought in—who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might bring us into slavery—to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you. And from those who seemed to be influential (what they were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality)—those, I say, who seemed influential added nothing to me.

On the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel to the circumcised (for he who worked through Peter for his apostolic ministry to the circumcised worked also through me for mine to the Gentiles), and when James and Cephas and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. Only, they asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do. (Galatians 2:1-10,ESV)

**The Mandate** (2:1-2, ESV)

You then, my child,

1. Christ to Paul: be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and
2. Paul to Timothy: what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses
3. Timothy to Others: entrust to faithful men,
4. Others to Others: who will be able to teach others also.

**Nine Models of Continuing the Apostolic Succession**  
*Confronting Wolves while Protecting the Sheep*

**1. The Dedicated Soldier** (2:3-4, ESV)

Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him.

**2. The Rule-Abiding Athlete** (2:5, ESV)

An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.

**3. The Hard-Working Farmer** (2:6-7)

It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

**4. The Humanity-Divinity of Jesus Christ** (2:8-13, ESV)

Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel,

**5. The Suffering of Paul** (2:9-10, ESV)

for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

**6. The Discipleship of Christians** (2:11-13, ESV)

The saying is trustworthy, for:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him; / if we endure, we will also reign with him;

if we deny him, he also will deny us; / if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.

**7. The Unashamed Workman** (2:14-19, ESV)

**Construction Worker: Building a Straight Road:** Remind them of these things, and charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, **rightly handling** the word of truth. (2:14-15)

**Skilled Hunter: Hitting the Target:** But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness, and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who **have swerved** from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already happened. They are upsetting the faith of some. But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity."

**8. The Clean House Utensil**

(2:20-22, ESV)

Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable.

Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.

So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

**9. The House Slave**

(2:23-26, ESV)

Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels.

And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness.

God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.